

measure was coming up, is that I am going to vote to put the \$100,000 back in the money. This doesn't benefit my legislative district. This doesn't benefit Omaha. It doesn't benefit Douglas County. It benefits, I suppose, some of those rural areas out there that we actually made representations to a few years ago when the state took over the county welfare system. Our representations were we would provide you with the kind of services after the state took over the system as you got when the counties had the system. And so I said to myself I am going to vote the \$100,000, and I will probably irritate the current administration and maybe the Appropriations Committee and the like, but, you know, I can't be a part of this state and watch us to continue to bleed and drain and cut, and bleed and drain and cut until we have got nothing left that we are proud of. You have got to have something that you feel good about, not an old mule that has been kicked around but rather a good horse that will do the task that needs to be done. So, I would encourage you to move this bill across, and we will work it through and let's make this year the year we do the things right. If we have got to raise taxes to have a government that you and I believe in, the people believe in, the people need and deserve, then let's do it. It is time to quit poor-mouthing ourselves. It is time to be responsible, and to take care of the money, and to put together the kind of government that serves our people and serves them well.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to ask a couple of questions and I don't know whether...I think it would maybe appropriate to ask them of Senator Miller.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Miller, would you respond to a question.

SENATOR MILLER: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: I would just like a little clarification for my own good, and maybe for anyone else in here that is interested to know. Senator Miller, it is my understanding that this is a cut in the employees at this point? The committee amendment as we passed it which is now the bill does cut the number of employees?

SENATOR MILLER: Fourteen.